Message Text

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62.

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 231520Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5554

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR IS UR

SUBJ: SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: ABU DHABI 0072

1. AT RECEPTION JANUARY 22, DURING DISCUSSION OF CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH PRAVDA DEPUTY FOREIGN EDITOR BOL'SHAKOV, EMBOFF NOTED REPORTS SHORTLY BEFORE OCTOBER WAR THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD SOON REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ASKED WHAT SITUATION IS NOW. WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THOSE REPORTS, BOL'SHAKOV SAID HIT FIRST WAS IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR ISRAEL TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ARAB NATIONS.

ASKED WHETHER THIS IS PRERQUISITE FOR USSR-ISRAEL RELATIONS, BOL'SHAKOV ANSWERED, WITH OLD SAW THAT USSR WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO RECONGIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

2. WE CONCLUDE FROM BOL'SHAKOV'S DUSTY ANSWER ONLY
THAT PROPAGANDA ORGANS HAVE RECEIVED NO WARNING ABOUT
ANY IMMINENT CHANGE OF LINE REGARDING SOVIET RELATIONS
WITH ISRAEL. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS WOULD
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE
ISRAELIES AT THIS TIME SOLELY ON BASIS OF DISENGAGEMENT.
SOVIETS HAVE PUBLICY PLAYED DOWN SIGNIFICANCE OF
DISENGAGEMENT AND ARE TOUTING LINE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT ONLY
IF PROGRESS IS MADE ON ROOT CAUSES OF ME CRISIS. FURTHERMORE,
PRESENT MOMENT, WHEN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS MAY BE AT
DELICATE STAGE (REFTEL), SEEMS AN UNLIKELY ONE FOR SOVIETS TO
MAKE A DRAMTIC REVERSAL IN POLICY ON ISRAEL. WE WOULD CERTAINLY
NOT EXCLUDE, HOWEVER, SOVIET PURSUIT OF EXPANED CONTACTS WITH
ISRAELIS IN GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE.DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 JAN 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW01107

Document Number: 1974MOSCOW01107 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: MOSCOW

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740122/aaaaaubu.tel Line Count: 80

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: ABU DHABI 0072 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: kelleyw0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26 APR 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005